

A Quarterly Newsletter Of

DURHAM The City of Durham

Department of Solid Waste Management

(919) 560-4185

1869 CITY OF MEDICINE

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Waste Disposal and Recycling Center gets a facelift

The City of Durham's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center, located at 2115 East Club Boulevard, has recently seen some changes. The center, also known as the Transfer Station, receives most of the municipal solid waste collected in Durham County. The private company that operates the center transports the solid waste to a land-fill in Virginia. Yard waste is composted on-site. Mulch, compost and topsoil are available for sale; samples of these products may be seen at the center.

The recent redesign of the

facility has improved the way that materials are handled, leading to greater efficiencies and expanding the capacity for yard waste composting and recycling. The recycling drop-off center that has been closed due to construction has re-opened. Tidewater Fibre Corp. has bins on-site for all of the recyclables collected through the City's recycling program. In addition, mixed paper (cereal boxes, booklets, folders, envelopes, etc.) may now be dropped off in the designated carts.

For recycling opportunities from shoes to Styrofoam, visit Durham's A-Z Recyclopedia at http://www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/solid/recycle_index.asp.



Certain special wastes can also be dropped off at the Waste Disposal and Recycling Center. These include white goods (large appliances, such as washing machines, dryers, refrigerators and water heaters); lead-acid batteries; scrap tires; and used oil and antifreeze from do-it-yourselfers. Used oil and antifreeze should be brought to the Center in closed containers and left for the City attendants to pour into the new collection tanks.

The Waste Disposal and Recycling Center is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 560-4611.

Recycle your computers or other electronic equipment!

Repairing or donating old electronic equipment extends its useful life. An additional benefit of repairing and reusing electronics is energy conservation, since it takes less energy to reuse or manufacture from recycled parts. Contact the following organizations to donate, repair or recycle your old electronic equipment.

Durham Public Schools (DPS) and various non-profits accept certain types of working computer equipment for reuse. Call to confirm. For DPS donation restrictions, call 560-2360 or visit the DPS website.

ExplorNet in Raleigh, 878-0540, accepts private and corporate donations. The company works with the Department of Public Instruction in a program that teaches students to upgrade computers and install them in high schools. ExplorNet also refits computers for use by quadriplegics.

IBM (www.ibm.com/ibm/environment) will accept your old system—no matter who manufactured it—for \$29.99, which covers shipping. The computers are recycled or refurbished and donated to charity.

Norwood Electronics, Inc. in Durham, 309-7552, offers electronics repair, recycling and resale for laptops, PCs, monitors, televisions, VCRs, camcorders, stereo equipment, etc.

Wesbell Asset Recovery in Durham, 687-3900, takes large quantities from corporations for a fee and recycles them.



Reparando o donando equipo electrónico y computadoras viejas extiende la vida de estos artículos. Así que, en lugar de desecharlos, dónelos a una escuela o una organización sin fines de lucro. También hay varias compañías en el área que aceptan estos materiales y los reciclan o reparan y los venden.

Ahora el Deposito de Desechos y Reciclaje de la Ciudad (2115 East Club Boulevard) es más conveniente para los habitantes. Las secciones del Centro de Reciclaje que habían sido cerrados por las obras de construcción han sido reabiertas. El Centro de Reciclaje acepta aparatos electro/domesticos, baterías de plomo-ácido, llantas viejas, aceite usado y anticongelante de sus propios proyectos. El TFC también tiene recipientes en el predio para aceptar todos los objetos reciclables recogidas a través del programa de reciclaje de la Ciudad. Se ha añadido un sitio de intercambio. El horario del centro es de lunes a viernes de 7:00 a.m. hasta las 4:30 p.m. y sábados de 7:30 hasta el medio día. Para mayor información, llame al 560-4611.

It's fall—and the leaves are falling

Soon, you will probably be spending a lot of quality time with the family rake. Leaves don't have to go to waste, however.

Reuse the leaves in your yard. Using a mulching mower, you can shred leaves and let them stay on the grass. Or, you can pick up leaves with a bagging mower and place them as mulch on your planting beds.

You can also add the leaves to your compost pile. If you would like to learn more about backyard composting, visit the SEEDS Demonstration Garden (www.seedsnc.org) or Eno River Park, both of which have active compost piles. The Department of Solid Waste Management sells home

composters for \$38. The 100-percent recycled plastic containers hold 13 cubic feet of material and come with a book about backyard composting.

Residents may receive free curbside collection of leaves and yard waste provided that a City-issued brown yard waste cart is used. (The carts cost \$20 each.) Yard waste is collected each week, the day after trash is collected. Material that won't fit in your cart may be placed in paper yard waste bags. Yard waste can also be dropped off at the Waste Disposal and Recycling Center, 2115 E. Club Boulevard, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to noon.

Mulch, compost and topsoil made from yard waste picked up by the City are available for sale at the Waste Disposal and Recycling Center.



Yard waste is collected at the curb from the brown yard waste cart, with overflow in paper yard waste bags.

Las hojas barridas de su patio se pueden usar en otras partes del patio o se pueden convertir en abono orgánico. El Departamento de Dirección de Residuos Sólidos vende recipientes para preparar abono por \$38.00. También le pueden recoger sus residuos del patio en su acera gratis, siempre y cuando usted compre y use el recipiente de residuos color café proporcionado por la Ciudad (cada recipiente cuesta \$20.00). Estiércol, abono y tierra hechos con los residuos de patio recogidos de las residencias están a la venta en el Centro de Desechos y Reciclaje de la Ciudad.



Whether lunch is normally carry-out food or a brown bag from home, you probably end up with a big pile of paper and plastic waste by the end. But, lunch time doesn't have to be waste time. Switch to a low-waste lunch made at home and save money while you reduce your waste.

Here's how to have a low-waste lunch:

- Carry lunch in a reusable bag or box.
- Put sandwiches, salads, soups, chips, cookies, fruits or vegetables in reusable containers.
- Pack leftovers that can be eaten cold or reheated. Using leftovers reduces food waste and saves you money.
- Take fresh fruit, such as an apple or a banana, that comes in its own "package."
- Avoid single-serving packages. These packages generally create more waste and cost more per serving.
- Buy in bulk and place a day's



serving in your reusable container.

- Pour drinks from a bulk container or mixed from a concentrate into a serving-sized, reusable container.
- If you drink carbonated soft drinks, choose the recyclable container.
- Pack food that you'll consume.
- Don't forget a reusable cloth napkin.
- When you're done, put all of your reusable containers back into your bag or box, take them home, and wash them for tomorrow's lunch.
- If you don't have a recycling bin at work, take your recyclables home.



- Add compostable fruit and vegetable peels and scraps to your backyard compost pile or vermicompost bin.

If you have access to a refrigerator at work, a canvas bag or plastic or metal box may be a good "lunch box." If you don't, a washable cooler bag or box will be all you need. If you need to purchase one, invest in a sturdy one that will last a long time. You might be able to find one at a

garage sale.

You don't have to buy special containers to hold your food. Plenty of reusable containers come into your home holding other products. These might include butter tubs, water bottles, and paper or plastic shopping bags. Simply clean and reuse them.

Treat yourself to a low-waste lunch several times a week. Challenge your co-workers to do the same.



FILM FACTS

Plastic film comprises more than 35 percent of all plastic packaging. Film products include trash bags, grocery sacks, store shopping bags, product wrappers, dry-cleaning bags, bubble wrap, foam sheets, strapping, stretch film and cling wrap.

In 1998, the last year for which complete information is available, 4.3 million tons of plastic film were generated, comprising 1.98 percent of municipal solid waste (MSW). Of this, 0.84 million tons were trash bags, 1.48 million tons were bags and sacks, and 1.98 million tons were plastic wrap.

More than 80 percent of plastic film is made from low-density polyethylene (LDPE), linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) or high-density polyethylene (HDPE). However, recycling plastic film continues to be a challenge for several reasons.

Sometimes, types of plastics, or resins, are mixed or layered. For instance, bubble wrap is often made primarily from LDPE but nylon is added to enhance strength. In other cases, chemicals are added to these common resins to make them sticky, tacky or textured. Often, they are also colored or imprinted.

In addition to the resin challenges facing recycling, plastic film is also lightweight and often generated in small quantities. These two factors can make collection difficult. Nationwide, plastic bags used by consumers are most commonly collected at drop-offs, such as grocery stores or dry cleaners. Businesses, which are more likely to generate larger quantities of the same resin and color, are much larger recyclers of film materials.

Because remanufacturers have a low tolerance for mixed resins and highly colored materials, recycled plastic film has had limited uses in new, recycled-content products, such as dark-colored trash containers or tennis shoe soles and plastic lumber. As collection of plastic film grows, new markets are developing.

In spite of these challenges, about 3 percent of plastic film is recycled annually—10,000 tons of bags and sacks and 120,000 tons of plastic wrap.



The LATEST & GREATEST

Good news on the catalog front

Norm Thompson Outfitters recently became the first major catalog firm to use 10-percent recycled-content paper in its catalogs. The effort began about a year and a half ago when the company in partnership with Environmental Defense's Alliance for Environmental Innovation set out to test recycled-content paper. The test was a success, leading to the announced change in the catalog paper. However, the company hasn't stopped there. Norm Thompson Outfitters is also seeking to drive change in the catalog industry by meeting with competitors and promoting the use of recycled-content paper.

Norm Thompson Outfitters mails more than 75 million catalogs per year, including *Norm Thompson*, *Early Winters*, *Waterfront Living* and *Solutions*.



Have you lost weight?

Containers and packages have lost a lot of weight over the past 20 years. We call this process *lightweighting*. When manufacturers lightweight, they reduce the weight or volume of a package or container. Reducing the thickness of a container's walls is one of the main strategies used in lightweighting.

Many common products have been lightweighted, including plastic soft drink bottles, aluminum and steel beverage and food cans, glass bottles, milk cartons, plastic grocery bags, and polystyrene drinking cups. These containers are one-quarter



to one-third lighter than they were just two decades ago.

Lightweighting results in source reduction, sometimes referred to as waste reduction. When containers and packages are lighter, less waste is created in the first place. Lightweighted containers also reduce transportation costs and thus conserve energy.

Most of the time lightweighting is done by manufacturers, but you can also do it at home or work. For instance, when you use the lightest possible weight paper for each printing job—you've lightweighted, too!



News that's fit to print

A recent report by the PAPER Project, a joint effort of the Independent Press Association, Conservatree and Co-op America, criticized the magazine industry for its environmental record. The report also suggested that the industry could dramatically improve its performance. Recommendations included improving inventory tracking and minimizing overproduction of "newsstand" copies, as well as converting to post-consumer recycled-content papers.

About 66 billion copies of almost 18,000 consumer magazines and another 37,000 specialty publications are printed annually in the United States. Of the consumer magazines, 66 percent go to subscribers, 17 percent are single-copy sales, and 15 percent are returned unsold. Nearly half of single-copy sales are made at grocery stores. At present, recycled-content paper constitutes only 5 percent of all magazine paper.

Magazines comprise 1 percent of municipal solid waste. According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data, about 16.7 pounds of magazines are generated per person each year. While magazines do have a longer shelf life in the home, school or office than newspapers, about 90 percent are discarded within a year of publication. As of 1998, 21 percent of the magazines generated were being recycled.

To read a copy of the PAPER Project report, go to www.ecopaperaction.org on the Internet.



Looking for more information?

The Federal Consumer Information Center publishes information about planning your purchases and maintaining products you already have. To learn more, get a copy of the Consumer Information Catalog. You can view the catalog online at www.pueblo.gsa.gov on the Internet. Or, you can request a free copy at 1-888-8-PUEBLO (1-888-878-3256).

Caring for and fixing what you've got reduces your waste. But maintaining products for a long life doesn't begin after you get them home. Instead, it begins when you are shopping for appliances, clothes or a different car.

When selecting a product, consider how well it is made. Products with low reported breakdown rates and a record of customer satisfaction are more likely to meet your needs for a longer period of time. Appliances or automobiles with longer manufacturer's warranties may cost you less to maintain. Sturdy furniture and clothing may cost more at the outset but should last longer.

After you get a product home, maintain it properly. Manufacturers provide guidelines on how best to care for products. These can usually be found in the owner's manual. With clothes or upholstered furniture, look for the fabric care instruction tag. Depending on the product, maintenance may include regular cleaning, tune-ups, oil changes or oiling, replacing belts or hoses, or sharpening blades.

If you don't know how to maintain a product that you have, call the manufacturer. Or, search the Internet. Michigan State University Extension maintains a home maintenance and repair database on the web. To search this database, visit www.msue.msu.edu, and click on "Home Maintenance and Repair" under MSU Extension Databases.

When a light bulb burns out, you don't



replace the lamp. Nor should you throw away your car, toaster oven or child's toy because one part breaks. Instead, replace the broken part. Call the product manufacturer or distributor to track down the necessary part. Or, look for parts on the Internet. At your favorite search engine, type in the product type and "replacement parts." For instance, to search for a part to your refrigerator, type in "refrigerator replacement parts."

Sometimes repairs don't require replacement parts. A small sewing kit may be all you need to replace buttons, stitch a ripped seam or rehem a garment. Some repairs might require a sewing machine. If you don't have one, you may be able to borrow one from a friend. You might also ask your dry cleaner if they offer repair services, or look for a sewing or alteration service.

Repair what breaks. Some toys, games, furniture and other household items might be easily repaired with tape, glue or a fastener from the hardware store. For more complex repairs, there are businesses that specialize in furniture, clothing, shoe, luggage, appliance, auto repair and more. Look in the Yellow Pages for local repair shops. Manufacturers of some products maintain lists of authorized repair centers; call the manufacturer or distributor for names, locations and phone numbers.

Buying durable products, maintaining them properly, and repairing or mending them when they break are the smart things to do—for your trash can and your pocket book.



news you can use

Reading the environment

What's the environment telling us? Obviously, it depends on who you ask. For two answers to the question, take a look at these books:

Floods, Famines and Emperors: El Nino and the Fate of Civilizations by Brian Fagan takes a look at the social effects of weather, as well as what the weather might be trying to tell us about our world.

Pandora's Poison: Chlorine, Health and a New Environmental Strategy by Joe Thornton explores the effects of chlorine in the environment. In the process, Thornton proposes a new standard for evaluating environmental risks.

Remember—there are as many answers as there are authors. Search your local library for books written from a variety of perspectives.



Make a difference

On Saturday, October 27, millions of Americans will be changing their communities on the day billed as America's largest national day of helping others—Make A Difference Day.

Think about devoting Make A Difference Day to improving our local environment. Last year, groups across the country beautified school yards, parks and neighborhoods, picked up litter, collected hazardous household waste, raked leaves, planted trees, cleaned and marked storm drains, and much more.

Projects are limited only by your creativity. You might help an older neighbor with fall yard cleanup. You might organize a class to clean up a school yard. You might help a youngster reuse books and tapes at the local library. Plan a clothing drive or a housewares swap. Help restock a food pantry.

Make A Difference Day is sponsored by USA WEEKEND magazine, the Points of Light Foundation and Paul Newman of Newman's Own. National participants include Boy and Girl Scouts, Keep America Beautiful, Goodwill Industries and many more non-profit organizations and businesses.

In 2000, 2.2 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of

towns and helping an estimated 25 million people.

For more information about Make A Difference Day, visit the web site, www.usaweekend.com/diffday. If you wish, you can register your project at the web site. After you've completed your project, you can enter it in the national awards recognition program.

Turn the tide

Want to take some action for the planet? Learn about the Center for a New American Dream's new project, Turn the Tide. Nine actions for the planet are included, from skipping a car trip each week and freeing yourself from junk mail to eliminating lawn pesticides. With the recommendation for each action, you'll find a description of how it can make a difference and an explanation of how to do it.

Even if you choose not to take all of the actions, taking some of them will have a positive impact. Plus, Turn the Tide will track the total actions taken by all participants, showing that a few people taking small steps together can make a big splash.

Interested? Visit www.newdream.org/turnthetide to sign up for this free program. You can also participate by calling 1-877-68-DREAM or writing to the Center for a New American Dream, Attn: Turn the Tide, 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 900, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

WHAT'S UP?

Solid Waste driver George McNeal and his collection crew, Jose Guzman and Bobby Woods, are very supportive of the Department's waste reduction and recycling efforts. In the Department, drivers and collectors observe as trash carts are tipped into the trucks. They then notify residents if they have seen any of the target recyclables falling from the trash carts. By law, Durham's target recyclables, including aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, newspaper, and corrugated cardboard, must be recycled. George and his crew leave educational tags explaining the law on the carts that contained recyclables. Thanks, George, Jose and Bobby for your hard work and support!



Left to right, George McNeal, Jose Guzman and Bobby Woods.

El conductor George McNeal y su equipo de recolección, José Guzmán y Bobby Woods, apoyan los esfuerzos de reducción de residuos y reciclaje del Departamento. Ellos educan a los residentes sobre el programa de reciclaje y las leyes de la Ciudad dejando etiquetas color de rosa en sus recipientes de basura que contienen artículos reciclables. ¡Les damos las gracias por su trabajo y apoyo!

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

We are also available to speak to clubs or organizations about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

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"One Person's Trash..." is part of the Department of Solid Waste Management's educational campaign to promote waste reduction and recycling programs.

Attention, artists!

The City of Durham's Department of Solid Waste Management invites the public to submit pieces for exhibition at its new 26,000 square foot staff facility. The facility, soon to be certified as an official "Green Building," has space designated for the display of art made from recycled materials and created by local youth and adult artists.

Exhibition periods are flexible, but three-month intervals will be the standard display time. Both indoor and outdoor art is invited for review. We will accept wall hangings, sculptures, mosaics, photographs, and any other representation of recycled art.

Please note:

- Art must be finished and ready to display.
- Art cannot be placed on sale from the facility.
- Great care will be given to the handling of the items; however, the City will not be liable for any damaged pieces.
- Items must be delivered and picked up.
- Some art may not be selected for display.
- Culturally and environmentally-themed art is preferred but not required.

Please contact Baridi Nkokheli at 560-4185 to coordinate submittals. ♻️

¡Atención artistas!

El Departamento de Residuos Sólidos les invita a presentar arte hecho de materiales reciclados para exhibir en su nuevo edificio. Aceptarán adornos, esculturas, mosaicos, fotografías o cualquier otra representación de arte reciclado. Comuníquese con Baridi Nkokheli al 560-4185 para requisitos.

Recycle what you buy, and buy what you recycle

As you celebrate another America Recycles Day, don't just think about recycling—do something about it. Beginning today, recycle what you buy, and buy what you recycle.

First, shop with recycling in mind, sometimes called *pre-cycling*. When you pre-cycle, you choose products and packages that you know you'll be able to recycle locally. Recyclables include aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, plastic bottles (numbers 1, 2, 5 and 7), gable-top beverage containers, juice boxes, plastic six-pack rings, glossy magazines and catalogs, white and colored office paper, and aluminum foil and pie tins.

Second, capture all the recyclables that are used in your home, office and school. Set up convenient recycling containers. Put a collection container for recyclables in your kitchen, near your workstation or in your classroom. If you are away from home and there aren't recycling bins nearby,



carry containers home for recycling.

Third, buy what you recycle. When you shop, look for and buy recycled-content products made from the recyclables you generate. For instance, look for fleece sweatshirts made from plastic soft drink bottles. Buy plastic lumber made from milk jugs. And don't forget, aluminum and steel cans and glass bottles and jars can be—and are—recycled again and again.

Want to do more? Join us for "Durham Recycles Week" activities November 12-18. There will be a recycling display at City Hall. We'll host the third annual eco-reception to honor city employees who have donated money to local charities through the city's "Seven Stars" campaign. We'll also have a mixed paper drive on November 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Village Shopping Center, beside the Post Office on Miami Boulevard, near Hwy. 98. ♻️

¡Celebra el Reciclaje! La semana de Durham Recicla es del 12 al 18 de noviembre y el 15 de noviembre es el día de América Recicla. Recuerde comprar productos en recipientes que pueden ser reciclados en Durham (como latas de aluminio y acero, botellas y frascos de vidrio, y cajas de jugo), recicle en su casa y en su escuela u oficina y compre productos hechos con productos reciclados, por ejemplo: sudaderas de lana hechas con botellas plásticas de beber. ¡Usted puede hacer una diferencia!

Waste Reduction and Conservation Event coming up

On Saturday, October 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., we'll hold a Waste Reduction and Conservation Event at the recycling drop-off center at South Square Mall, off University Drive. You'll be able to recycle mixed paper, exchange your broken recycling bin for a free replacement or buy a compost bin. We'll also have low-flow showerheads available, which will save you water

and money. You can exchange your existing showerhead for a free low-flow (2.5 gallon per minute) model, or you can buy one for \$3.

Visite el centro de reciclaje en South Square Mall el sábado, 27 de octubre de las 10:00 am a las 2:00 pm y recicle su papel mezclado, reemplace gratis su recipiente roto, compre un recipiente de abono orgánico o cambie su regadera para una más económica.

Neighborhood Environmental Action Team

Want to learn more about Durham's new Eco-Neighborhood Program? It is a joint venture between the departments of Environmental Resources, Solid Waste Management and Public Works that will address, through neighborhood involvement, environmental issues such as proper grease disposal, recycling and waste reduction, water conservation, and storm water education. If your neighborhood would like to become a partner or for additional information, please contact Gabi Kaiser at 560-4185, ext. 251.

Safe disposal for household hazardous waste



If you do projects around your home, you probably have a box of leftovers sitting somewhere. Your box might

include unneeded paint, a small amount of lubricating oil, a half-used bottle of a cleaning solution, and any number of other items too toxic for the trash.

Rather than continuing to store these materials, deliver them to one of our upcoming household hazardous waste (HHW) collections for proper disposal. Aging chemical leftovers create poisoning and spill hazards in your home—and they rarely get used up.

At our HHW collections, we'll be accepting motor oil, antifreeze and other automotive fluids; lawn and garden chemicals; indoor pesticides; household cleaning products; pool and photographic chemicals; fluorescent light bulbs; household batteries; and much more. Deliver items in their original, labeled containers, if possible.

HHW collections will be held at 1900 East Club Boulevard from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on October 13 and 27, November 10 and December 8.

For more information, call the 24-hour hotline at 287-8051. ♻️

Puede traer artículos como aceite de motor, químicos del césped o jardín, pesticidas, productos de limpieza doméstica, bombillas de luz fosforescente, pilas y mucho más a la colecta de residuos domésticos peligrosos programada por la Ciudad en el 1900 East Club Blvd. de las 9:00 am a las 3:00 pm el 13 y 27 de octubre, 10 de noviembre y 8 de diciembre. Llame la línea de 24 horas para mayor información al 287-8051.

The date of the November mixed paper drive has changed! It has been moved from the 24th to the 17th, and will still be held at the Village Shopping Center (beside Post Office on Miami Boulevard, near Hwy. 98).

Join us to learn about how you can reduce your waste and conserve water and energy! ♻️